

HCS HB 244 -- NOXIOUS WEEDS

SPONSOR: Quinn, 7 (Wells)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute adds spotted knapweed and sericea lespedeza to the definition of "noxious weed" and specifies that the noxious weed control laws are applicable to both varieties of weeds.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that spotted knapweed overtakes native plant species reducing forage production for livestock and wildlife. Infestation may degrade soil and water resources by increasing erosion, surface runoff, and stream sedimentation. Sericea lespedeza is found in most Missouri counties especially along roads from which it infests adjacent fields, is drought resistant, invades grasslands, and is unpalatable compared to native species due to tannins present in its tissue. Several counties in Kansas have designated it as a noxious weed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wells; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Thomas Hansen, University of Missouri Extension Service; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Department of Conservation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.